

***Ribes oxycanthoides* L. ssp. *irriguum***  
(Dougl.) Sinnott  
Idaho gooseberry  
Grossulariaceae (Gooseberry Family)

***Ribes oxycanthoides* ssp. *irriguum***  
Idaho gooseberry

**Status:** State Sensitive

**Rank:** G5T3T4S2

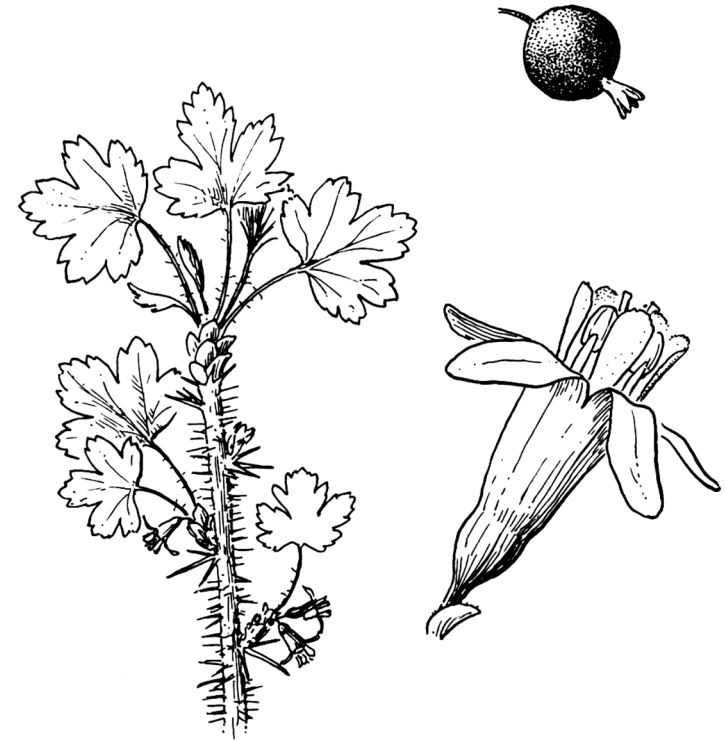
**General Description:** From Sinott (1985): Plant a medium shrub 2½ to 5 feet tall. Twigs grey to straw-colored. Internodal bristles absent or few. Nodal spines 0-2. Leaves cordate to truncate (rounded), the blade ¾ to 1¼ inches long, 1 to 1 ⅔ inches wide, the lower surface pilose to felty, glandular. Peduncles ¼ to ⅔ inch, pilose with glandular and eglandular hairs. Pedicels ⅛ to ¼ inch, glabrous. Calyx tube ⅛ to ⅓ inch long, ⅛ to ⅓ inch wide, glabrous, the calyx lobes ⅓ to ¼ inch long, glabrous. Petals ⅛ inch. Filaments ⅛ inch. Style ¼ to ⅓ inch.

**Identification Tips:** *Ribes oxycanthoides* var. *irriguum* differs from the other subspecies by having a broad calyx tube with lobes that are longer than the tube. In addition, the long glandular peduncle of var. *irriguum* is distinctive.

**Phenology:** Flowers May through June, fruits June through July.

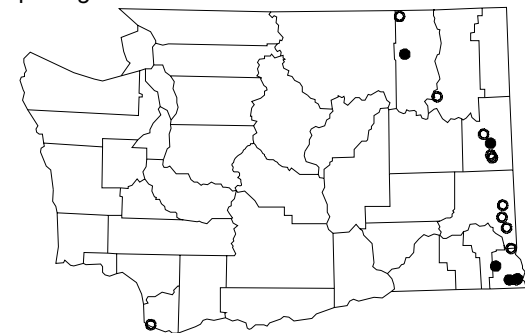
**Range:** Occurs in north-central Idaho, western Montana, Oregon, and Washington. In Washington, the taxon is currently known from Asotin, Spokane and Ferry counties in the Columbia Basin and Okanogan Highlands physiographic provinces. There are historical records of the species from Whitman, Stevens, and Clark counties. The latter is somewhat suspect, given the significant disjunction from all other known locations of the taxon.

**Habitat:** The species is found along streams, meadow openings associated with streams, and slopes of moist to dry canyons. Unlike other members of the genus, it is typically associated with conifers, including *Pinus ponderosa*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, and *Abies grandis*. Many different shrubs can occur with this taxon, including *Amelanchier alnifolia*, *Crataegus douglasii*, *Ribes cereum*, *Symphoricarpos albus*, and *Rosa woodsii*. Other species occurring with this taxon include *Carex geyeri*, *Smilacina stellata*, *Actaea rubra*, *Poa compressa* and *Poa palustris*. Elevations range from (1900)3000 to 5000 feet.



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Known distribution of *Ribes oxycanthoides* ssp. *irriguum* in Washington



● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

***Ribes oxyacanthoides* ssp. *irriguum***

Idaho gooseberry



Photo by  
Mitch Wainwright - USFS



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Mitch Wainwright - USFS

***Ribes oxyacanthoides* ssp. *irriguum***

Idaho gooseberry

**Ecology:** As noted above, this species is somewhat atypical for members of the genus *Ribes* in that it is closely associated with conifers. It does, however, appear to occupy sites with partial, rather than total, shade.

**State Status Comments:** There are only a few extant populations in the state and globally the species has a small distribution.

**Inventory Needs:** Historic occurrences need to be revisited and additional inventory is needed in the Blue Mountains area. Continued work in northeastern Washington is necessary to ensure accurate identification of reported occurrences.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Land conversion is the greatest threat to the species at many sites.

**Comments:** Synonymous with *Ribes irriguum* Dougl.

**References:**

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 614 pp.

Sinnott, Q.P. 1985. A revision of *Ribes* L. Subg. *Grossularia* (Mill.) Pers. Sect. *Grossularia* (Mill.) Nutt. (Grossulariaceae) in North America. *Rhodora* 87: 189-286.